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Discussion by Dertinger of Grotewohl's Speech

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- 25X1X
- Georg Dertinger, the East German Foreign Minister, stated on 15 September 1951 that the members of the People's Chamber had not known in advance that Premier Otto Grotewohl was going to deliver a speech on that day. Dertinger himself had been aware some five weeks earlier that a speech was being considered, but received official notification only at 5:00 P.M. on 14 September.
- Ambassador V.S. Semenov returned from Moscow on 11 or 12 September with instructions which led to the preparation and delivery of Grotewohl's speech.* Wilhelm Pieck, Walter Ulbricht, and Heinrich Rau are still in Moscow.
- Dertinger said that, in his opinion, Moscow would be willing to give up its stake in Germany if it could be assured of the neutralization of Germany, even though such an act would leave the SED in a precrious position which might necessitate a CDU-SED coalition government. This step would be an admission of weakness on the part of the Russians, and would be caused by the fact that the USSR cannot afford a war now. Dertinger considers that the United States also does not want a war; it will need two years before it will be ready to fight, and will then try to use its strength as a bargaining point at a conference table.
- If an agreement on the unification of Germany should be reached, Dertinger thinks the Russians would attempt also to reach an agreement on control organs for all Germany on a four-power basis. On the other hand, if the West rejects Grotewohl's proposal, it would strengthen the hand of the SED in East Germany.

Comment: According to Dertinger, the polemic parts of Grotewohl's speech were written by Anton Ackermann and Peter Florin.

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